

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 12-14 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 5-7, and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 5, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,130,339, herein "Kawamura"). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura in view of Yoshizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,813,052). Claim 6 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura in view of Ishihara et. al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0043442, herein "Ishihara"). Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 12-14 were indicated as allowed.

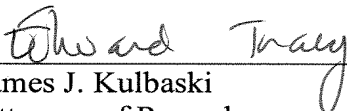
Claims 1, 5-7, and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Thus, the rejection of those claims is moot.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the only remaining claims, Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 12-14, were indicated as allowed.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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